



The Town of Fenwick Island

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RE-NAMING W. WEST VIRGINIA AVENUE (4/8/10)

On October 25, 2005, the Sussex County Council passed Ordinance No. 1800, which was an adoption of Chapter 73 of the Code of Sussex County relating to addressing and street naming. On October 24, 2008, the Town of Fenwick Island unanimously passed a resolution to enlist the services of the Sussex County Mapping and Addressing Department to assist the Town in re-addressing and re-naming streets within the Town that have been identified as areas of concern for Public Safety. *W. West Virginia Avenue was identified as an area of concern because responders may interpret the double directional prefix as a stutter or repeated directional given under the stress of an emergency situation. Responders may be directed to the wrong location.*

On August 28, 2009, at a regularly scheduled Fenwick Island Council meeting, a Resolution regarding street re-naming was passed. The entire Resolution was posted outside the Town Hall and on the website. This street was re-named “W. Virginia Avenue W.” in an effort to meet Sussex County standards and to minimize the inconvenience to residents. Letters were sent to residents on September 10, 2009. This designation was not accepted by Sussex County, however.

On February 9, 2010, a letter was sent to the owner of record (reference tax records) of each parcel on W. West Virginia Avenue. The letter explained the situation and asked for re-naming suggestions. It included some suggested names, but encouraged any input – to be received at Town Hall by March 11. Six residents made the effort to offer twenty suggestions. Two additional names which were quite popular in other re-naming efforts were included. “Dolphin”, for example, received just three fewer votes than High Tide Lane in the W. Virginia Avenue re-naming process.

Suggested names are vetted by the Sussex County 911 Project team. Those with the same or similar name in any cooperating service area are not eligible. This includes streets from as far away as Frankford. Some names have been reserved by builders, too. The list was reduced to five and a request for “votes” was sent to each owner of record on March 24. The response date of April 15 was chosen so that proper notice may be made before the April 23 Council meeting.

The Agendas for all meetings of Council are posted outside the Town Hall and on the website (www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov) with seven days notice in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. The full text of any proposed Resolutions are advertised in the same way. The agendas, meeting minutes and audio recordings of past meetings can be retrieved from the website at any time, as well. The Town Manager will administer policies determined by Council.

Your input is desired. The process has been deliberate and quite public. Your cooperation will ensure the timely delivery of emergency services. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.